WHAT'S GROWING

WINNERAGO COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS



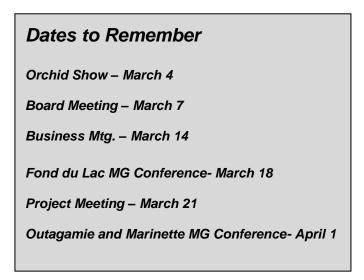
ON?

Mission Statement: Our purpose is to provide horticulture education, community service and environmental stewardship for our community in affiliation with the University of Wisconsin Extension Program.

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA requirements. Please make requests for reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to educational programs as early as possible preceding the scheduled program, service or activity.



Maria Talin- Oshkosh Animal Shelter



Inside

The President's Pen

By Kathy Schultz & Linda Loker

Is it March already?! It is time for "Wearin' o' the Green"! And are we talking about ourselves or our yards?! Only a gardener would think of this!

Yes, it is now March and we have had all types of weather so far this year. Again in February we had warmer than normal weather and the lilac buds are starting to swell, and there are many other plants having difficulty deciphering what to do!

However, at this writing it may be cold and dreary outside so we should still be in the throws of selecting all those wonderful new plants we are seeing in all of our garden magazines. Can't resist one of everything - even those not good for our zone! Speaking of which, if you read **Wisconsin Gardening** magazine this month there is an interesting article on cold hardy zones and heat zones.

Our Education Committee organized another great Winter Escape/Summer Dreams seminar on February 18. There were over 145 registered attendees that gave us very good reviews. Our silent auction was a huge success and brought in over \$2700! And this is money that helps support our community environmentally! Thank you to all who worked on the seminar and to all those who participated in this successful event.

The Education Committee is also hosting an overnight trip to the Rockford area in June. Hear about this at our business meeting. It sounds like a wonderful and educational tour. The committee has Sheila Glaske from the Paine speaking to the public at the Oshkosh Library on March 14. The committee is also planning other workshops and a day trip...watch for more information.

We spoke about our hours sheets at the last business meeting and plan to touch on a few more points at our meeting in March. As you begin to enter your hours on the form please note any questions or concerns you may have and bring them to the meeting.

Now is a good time to think about our volunteer hours for the coming season and how we are going to achieve them. Remember that in order to earn and maintain master gardener certification, everyone must have 24 hours of volunteering by September 1, 2017. Whether certifying for the first time or recertifying, the guidelines for the volunteer hours are detailed in our Standard Operating Procedures on our website. To help everyone decide how to obtain these hours, the project leads are looking to the membership for help. There is a wide variety of interests to choose from, and new projects are becoming available each year. Check out the list of projects available on your hours sheet or just ask any of the board members. Along with the membership meetings, the monthly newsletter is a great resource for finding out what is going on in the projects. Look for upcoming emails that will invite members to spring clean-ups and special project meetings.

Eric Kropp and Nancy Karuhn, our vice presidents, have scheduled a meeting on March 21, 2017 for all project leads. This is a very informative meeting that will offer recommendations as well as the guiding rules to support leads in success of their projects. Thank you, Eric and Nancy!

Our speaker for our March meeting is our own Kimberly Miller. Kimberly will talk to us about trees and their pruning needs this time of year.

Have we told you how great we think this group is lately?! The hard work and the great successes are very visible and we thank you for this support. Winnebago Co rocks! We will end with inspirational words from the Irish –

May your thoughts be as glad as the shamrocks May your heart be as light as a song May each day bring you bright Happy hours that stay with you all the year long.

Irish Blessing,

Kathy and Linda





Trivia

The official shamrock of Ireland is *Trifolium dubium* (try-FOL-lee-um DOO-bee-um), a clover with yellow flowers and lobed leaves. The shamrock is a symbol of St. Patrick's Day and legend has it that St. Patrick picked a hop clover with its three-lobed leaf to illustrate the holy Trinity. Shamrocks are associated with the Ireland, friendship, Christianity and good luck. The word shamrock comes from the old Irish word "seamrog" which means "summer plant."

Florists and grocery stores sell varieties of *Oxalis* because it's easier to grow than shamrocks but they are not native to the United States. Oxalis prefer bright light but not direct sun and a consistently moist soil, not soggy. If the foliage turns yellow, this could be a sign of overwatering.

This plant needs to go into a dormant state two or three times a year. When the plant loses its vigor, stop watering and remove the leaves as they turn brown. Put the pot in a cool, dry place for two or three months. To break the dormancy, resume watering and add a houseplant fertilizer (10-10-10). The plant should start to revive and thrive for a few more months.

Source- Penn State Extension

SHARING YOUR TIME

By Kathy Gore

My Mother had a large family of six sisters and one brother. Every August all the family members gathered to have the August Birthday Picnic. There was a committee to plan it and decide where to have it, in a park or someone's back yard. Thru the years it was still held but getting smaller and no one wanted to be on the committee. Because I didn't want the long time family tradition to go away, my cousin and I took it over. It's been more than ten years since we took it over. We still enjoy doing the planning and seeing all the family together.

Knowing what I do to make our family picnic a success, I was interested in what is involved in planning the Master Gardener June picnic. Donna Kudlas and Kathy Daniels are the Chairs for this committee so I have asked Donna to explain the process.

By Donna Kudlas

I will be passing on the picnic organization to someone else but I think Kathy Daniels will still be involved. The picnic had the most detailed information that was passed on to me from Mary and Kathy. The first task, usually in March, is to contact Park View to secure the date. This is a free venue for us.

Our group of MG's is the absolute best. They ask what they can do to help and usually take care of the door prizes. In April, catering is set up for the meats provided by the club. Kathy has always provided the beverages.

We have been the people to set up the room and, again, so many people step forward to help. In 2016, Park View provided 2 people to help us set up. We always have wonderful foods and a great turn out. Reservations are made both at meeting through sign up or by phone to me. Plates, eating utensils, and cups are purchased.

Remember to get your information for the newsletter submitted by the 15th of each month. Send to Mary Jo Maher at: mahermaryjo@yahoo.com.

No Potting Soil Needed For Air Plants

By Lawanda Jungwirth

If you want an easy-to-care for houseplant without the mess of potting soil, one of the 650 species of air plants, called Tillandsia, are for you.

Air plants have slender, strappy leaves resembling pineapple tops, but of a finer nature. Most have spectacular tubular or funnel-shaped flowers lasting from several days to several months. Tiny silver scale-like discs cover the leaves and absorb moisture and nutrients from the air. The roots' sole function is to anchor the plant to rocks, trees, shrubs or soil.

Locate air plants in a bright, but not sunny, spot where there is good air circulation.

From late spring to mid-autumn, air plants should be misted every other morning until water drips from the leaves. Mist once a week in winter. Do not use distilled or softened water. Do use filtered water or bottled water. If you are on a city water supply, let tap water sit for 24 hours to allow chlorine to dissipate before misting.

After misting, the plant should dry in one to three hours. At least an hour is needed for moisture to be absorbed, but any longer than three hours you risk rot. If the plant dries too fast, mist again. If it dries too slowly, move it to a location where air circulation is better.

Every seven to ten days, soak the plant in a bowl filled with clean, tepid water for 30 minutes. Afterward, turn the plant upside down and give it a good shake to remove excess water.

Fertilize monthly in spring and summer using orchid or bromeliad fertilizer, or houseplant fertilizer at ¼-strength listed on the package. The fertilizer can be applied when you mist. If you eschew chemical fertilizers, you can use pond or aquarium water to fertilize air plants during the weekly soaking.

If the leaves curl up or roll, the plant is not being misted often enough. Too much fertilizer will cause leaves to turn brown and brittle. Not enough fertilizer results in slow growth, as does inadequate light.

Air plants flower once and eventually die, but not before producing 2-8 baby air plants called "pups." When the pups are 1/3 to ½ the size of the mother plant, they can be removed. Hold both the mother and the pup by their bases and gently twist the pup downward.

Air plants are sometimes displayed in hanging or table-top glass globes. They can also be tucked into a decorative bowl filled with stones, in a seashell, a basket, or pottery. They can be tied onto driftwood or a branch using monofilament fishing line, twist ties or string, or even glued in place with construction glue or hot glue. Do not use copper wire or Super Glue, do not attach to pressure treated wood and do not cover the roots with moss or soil. However, you decide to display your air plant, remember that you need to mist it and that it must be able to dry out in a few hours.

The News Crew: Kathy Gore, Virginia Slattery, Mary Jo Maher, Jane Kuhn, Lawanda Jungwirth, Renee Doner, Lynne Slat, Marge Bolding, Anne Murphy, Eric Kropp

Edelweiss Can Be Grown In Wisconsin

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Edelweiss, Edelweiss Every morning you greet me. Small and white Clean and bright You look happy to meet me. Blossom of snow may you bloom and grow Bloom and grow forever. Edelweiss, Edelweiss Bless my homeland forever.

Many of us are familiar with the song "Edelweiss" from Rodgers and Hammerstein's 1965 musical "Sound of Music." The musical is based in Austria where the small white flower is protected and illegal to pick.

When my husband and I moved into our former home 26 years ago, the only plant the previous owners asked to take with them from the beautifully landscaped yard was an edelweiss they had brought back from Austria. They were kind enough to divide it so I had an edelweiss plant too. I kept it alive several years and saved dried edelweiss flowers in a vase for over 20 years.

Edelweiss is a small plant with sweet little white flowers and fuzzy, silvery leaves. The flowers, set flat against the leaves, look like pretty snowflakes blooming from late spring through early fall. One plant may spread to 8"x8" and grow 4"-16" tall. Originating high in the European Alps, edelweiss does best in loose, gritty soil and is a star in the rock garden or as a ground cover.

Edelweiss is a short-lived, slow-growing perennial that likes full sun to part shade. Most important for the success of growing edelweiss is the soil, which must be well-drained and slightly alkaline. Mix compost and peat moss into the top six inches of soil before planting. A sprinkling of lime at the time of planting is helpful. Once established, edelweiss needs no supplemental watering. Be certain not to plant it in a spot that will be under water when snow melts in spring. If you cannot be confident of reliable snow cover all winter, cover the plants with a thick mulch in late fall and remove it in early spring.

Both edelweiss plants and seeds can be obtained by mail-order. After hardening off to become accustomed to non-greenhouse weather, plants can be placed in the ground outdoors after the last spring frost.

Seeds need to be stratified by storing them in a freezer for three months to mimic winter conditions before planting in spring. Seeds can be started indoors in March or April. Sow them on the surface of the soil and keep them moist by misting daily. Move them to a sunny window when they germinate.

Outdoors, seeds can be planted as soon as the soil is bare. Scatter them on top of the soil and use the mist setting on your hose nozzle to keep them moist and avoid washing them away.

Expect bloom the second summer after planting if you grow edelweiss from seed.

Since edelweiss is short-lived, divide it every few years to prolong its life. In cool summers, it may produce seeds which will germinate and provide young plants to take over when the old ones die out.

The Invasive Grapevine Habitattitude Pet Surrender Event

Exotic pets and aquatic plants released by owners who can no longer care for them have the potential to become invasive. Do you have a pet or plants you can no longer care for? If so, bring your pet or plants to the Green Bay Aquarium Society (GBAS) spring Habitattitude Pet Surrender Event on Saturday, March 11th, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at 1000 Islands Environmental Center in Kaukauna. Volunteers will accept fish, birds, and aquarium plants - no questions asked.

The Habitattitude Rehoming Network is a new area resource that aims to provide responsible alternatives to release for exotic pet owners who are no longer able to care for their pets. The Network, along with the GBAS, are hosting the March event.

It's a Gardener's Life

By Virginia Slattery



Deborah Voyles

Deborah Voyles is our new clothing coordinator. She is a member of the 2014 MG class. We hope you enjoy reading her bio and seeing her pictures. I have no idea how she has time for her own garden, let alone volunteering!

I was born in Racine, Wisconsin and attended J.I Case High School. I earned my bachelor's degree from Concordia University in Mequon and later went on to complete a Coding Certificate from Fox Valley Tech. I am the System Director of Revenue Integrity for the Ministry and Affinity Hospitals. I travel all over Wisconsin, covering Rhinelander, Wausau, Stevens Point, and the Fox Valley. I oversee compliance and charge capture for the services at our 12 hospitals.

I have a son and daughter, Rome and Summer. My daughter lives in Neenah with her husband and my 2 beautiful grandchildren, Jaxon and Greenlee. I live with my soul-mate, Chuck, in Winchester

A friend told me she had taken the MG course in Rhinelander and really enjoyed it. So I began calling the Winnebago office to see when I could enroll. I was so excited to learn how to be a successful gardener! I'm now officially certified and have been active as much as possible.

My greatest influence was my grandfather. He had a beautiful garden and I would love to spend time in the garden with him. We would chatter about all sorts of things and he would pass on his "tried and true" methods. His beautiful grape arbor is one of my favorite memories. I'd help him harvest the grapes so we could make grape jelly. Recently, I went back to his home and met the new owners. They allowed me to dig some of the grape vines for transplanting. I'm happy to report that the new grapes took hold and developed sturdy vines! It brings me great happiness to know that I have Grandpa's grapes.

I have worked on both invasive projects with buckthorn and garlic mustard. One of my favorite projects has been the annual planting of the tulip bulbs at the Paine. I enjoy working at the Farmer's Market and meeting new people and telling them about Master Gardeners. I'm this year's Clothing Coordinator. I'm hoping to become more involved once I retire.

I started with flower gardening and am delighted to say my family appreciated my work. We held my daughter's wedding in my flower garden—with 190 people in attendance! It was one of my greatest gardening achievements. A few years later, we moved from that location to our current home. I have relandscaped over an acre of flower gardens and fruit tree arbors. Then I started vegetable gardening. This past year I put in a 20 by 40 ft. fenced-in garden. We harvested 13 different kinds of vegetables. I also have apple, cherry, and pear trees along with the grape arbor, strawberries, blueberries, and raspberries. I love to can and freeze produce from the garden, bake pies and crisps, and make jellies and jams.

BY JANE KUHN

I am an herbaceous, woodland perennial with native varieties in Midwestern United States. I am 2-3.5 feet tall and unbranched, with my central stem leaning to one side with alternate, pale green leaves up to 6 inches long and 3 inches wide. I have two to seven flowers growing from the axils of the leaves, drooping down, tubular in shape and creamy or white in color. These flowers are followed by small berries the size of a pea and blackish-blue in color. I am hardy in zones 3-9, bloom in midspring to early summer with my seed pods lasting into fall. I prefer a light soil, moderate levels of moisture a partly sunny to shady location.

Propagation is best in the autumn either by seed sown as soon as gathered or by division after the stalks decay. I am a favorite in shade gardens or woodland settings, am rarely bothered by disease and am deer resistant. Except for my roots and tender young shoots, all parts of my adult plant, especially my berries, are poisonous and should not be consumed.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Renee Doner

Strawberry Refrigerator Cake

Ingredients:

- 1 box strawberry Cake Mix-prepare according to directions
- 1 container of frozen strawberries-thawed-10oz
- 1 1/2 cups of cold milk
- 1 box instant vanilla pudding-3.5oz
- 1 container of cool whip-12oz
- 1 pint of strawberries-fresh-tops removed and cut in half
- 1/3 cup chopped pecans-optional

Make boxed cake mix according to directions on the box. Pour into greased 9x13 pan and bake according to directions. When done, let cool. Once cool, use the handle of a wooden spoon to poke holes in the cake.

Put thawed strawberries w/syrup in the food processor or blender and puree a bit. Pour the strawberry puree mixture over the cake and spread evenly. Let it soak in.

Whisk together cold milk and vanilla pudding, mix until thick. Fold in cool whip. Spread evenly over the cake. Place fresh strawberries halves on top. Sprinkle chopped pecans on top. Refrigerate 4 hours or overnight.

Created by: The Cooking Mom



Submitted by Lynne Slat

Department of Horticulture at UW Madison

http://horticulture.wisc.edu/

The Department of Horticulture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is one of the four original departments of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and was founded in 1889. Home to 12 state-supported faculty members and 25 staff members, as well as 8 federally-supported faculty members, the department serves as a home for instruction, research, and outreach activities in many aspects of horticultural science. Since the 1960s, the department has benefitted from a strong partnership with the Vegetable and Cranberry Research Unit of USDA-ARS, which provides support for the 8 federally supported faculty programs, staff, and students.

The Department provides programs that are focused on fundamental studies of plant biology, crop production, and utilization of horticultural crops. It also provides educational opportunities for the pursuit of careers in horticulture, strengthens the competitive position of Wisconsin's horticulture industry, and works to increase the use of plants for environmental improvement and as a source of personal enrichment. The work of department faculty, staff, and students has made substantial impacts in the state and nation for over 125 years.

The Agronomy Department at UW-Madison

The current demand for agronomy graduates exceeds supply, and we expect the demand to increase. Agronomy majors with B.S. degrees can choose from careers in agricultural research and teaching, agribusiness, resource conservation, and crop management. Agronomists provide technical and support services for seed production and crop protection industries and for biotechnology and conservation organizations. They are also employed as extension advisors, vocational agriculture instructors, and farm managers. You will be well prepared for any of these careers by the agronomy curriculum at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The diverse undergraduate program offers exciting possibilities for study and experience. It allows undergraduates to concentrate in plant breeding and genetics, plant biotechnology, plant protection, or sustainable agriculture. It offers one curriculum option: the Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Agronomy. The curriculum offers plenty of flexibility for students to tailor their education to their specific interests.

All of the courses are taught by professors who also actively conduct research in the field in which they teach. These world-recognized experts are highly qualified to teach the most current concepts. In fact, our professors can teach some of the newest, unpublished information because they developed it themselves – often in collaboration with undergraduate researchers. Yet professors still work one-on-one with students through the undergraduate advising system.

The Department of Agronomy has 24 faculty members who are active researchers. Since these professors employ over 50 undergraduates in departmental research programs throughout the year, every undergraduate major has the opportunity to get hands-on experience in research areas ranging from plant breeding to crop protection to biotechnology. Students often move from program to program, sampling various career opportunities, and better prepare themselves for specific career goals.

Strong emphasis is placed on real-world experiences through the CALS Internship Program. This program allows students to earn college credits while working in areas related to their major. More importantly, it allows students the opportunity to sample various careers before completing their undergraduate program. Nearly all agronomy majors do at least one internship as part of their undergraduate experience. In short, there are many opportunities for students interested in plant science, and the faculty is eager to help prepare you for them. http://agronomy.wisc.edu/undergrad/why-agronomy/

Buzzing Around

Submitted by Mary Jo Maher

It is that wonderful time of the year when we can see peeks of spring and we all can shed our winter blues. We are starved for color, the smells of spring and to get to the garden centers. That is just what I did when I visited Koeune's Garden Center at 2015 County Road II in Neenah.

Koeune's is owned by Mike Koeune. This is a third genation garden center, which started in 1985. The family moved from Skokie, IL in 1974. They bought the current site which was a tomato farm. Mike has been gardening since he was eight years old.

The greenhouse is filled with so many fresh smells and wonderful colors right now. There are about 30 different varieties of heirloom tomatoes and other heirloom vegetables. The herb selection is wonderful! The smell of rosemary filled the air and the basil selection was awesome. They also have succulents, hanging baskets, and geraniums, which are all culture grown.

Koeune's is open January- July 4. Hours are 8-6 during the week and 9-4 on the weekends.

Places to eat in Neenah - Timshel, Radke's, El Azteca, and Zuppas













Project Lead Meeting

March 21- 6:00

Gardening Conferences

Fond du Lac – March 18 Marinette, Outagamie – April 1

Orchid Show 2017 • Neenah • March 4

Orchid Magic, the Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society's annual American Orchid Society judged show and sale, is open to the public and will be held at the Riverwalk Hotel - Downtown Neenah, 123 East Wisconsin Avenue. Take your camera.

Saturday, March 4, Show 9:30 am - 3:00 pm; Sales 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

General admission \$5; children under 12 admitted free.

http://www.newisos.org 2017 Orchid Magic Show Poster



2017 Flower Arranging schedule at Park View Health center					
Master gardeners meet on Mondays at 1:30 in the Great Room					
March	no flower arranging				
April 17 th	flowers from Pick N Save				
Мау	cancelled by Parkview				
June	cancelled by Parkview				
July 24 th Parkview's fair	flowers from our gardens supplements from Pick N Save				
August 21 st	flowers from our garden and supplements from Pick N Save				
September	cancelled by Parkview				
October 16 th	flowers from Pick N Save				
November	cancelled				
December 12 th	cancelled				

THE LATEST DIRT- cont.

WCMGA Project List

LONG TERM

Oshkosh Farmers Market

Coughlin Center Rain Garden Education & Control of Invasive Species Park View Flower Arranging Park View Prairie Park View Cutting Garden Park View Vegetable Garden Plant Health Advisors @ UWEX Winnebago County Fair Lutheran Home Oshkosh Oshkosh Area Humane Soc. Mem Garden Paine Gardens and Arboretum Gardens at Octagon House Home & Outdoor Living Show Winchester Historical Society Carter Memorial Library Neenah Shattuck Park **Neenah Library Gardens** Sullivan's Woods Oshkosh Hist. Society Morgan House WI Vegetable Trials

SMALL GROUP

St Raphael Church Omro Veteran Memorial Growing Oshkosh Lincoln Hall Garden @ UWO

Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz, Janet Priebe, Synda Jones, Patty Schmitz **Needs Project Lead** Lawanda Jungwirth, Valerie Stabenow, Sue Egner Lil Hansche Sally Lindo **Bill Weber** Tom Weber Mary Shepard, Patty Schmitz Sue Bohn Jane Kuhn, Diana Dougherty Julie and Matt Miller Virginia Slattery Jerry Robak Cindy Meszaros, Joni Pagel Sandy Mathison, Mary Rebman Pat Behm, Linda Petek Julie Gutsmiedl Tamara Erickson Linda Loker **Needs Project Lead Needs Project Lead**

Cindy Meszaros Lori Berndt Lil Hansche Jo Helf

Winter Escape Summer Dreams 2017



Sue, Linda and Marge ready to check-in!



Linda checking it twice.





Arlene selling those castings!



Silent Auction committee: Petey, Valerie, Diana and Jane



Roy Anne with Dwane Otto – speaker from MN Landscape Arboretum

Business Meeting - draft February 14th

1. Welcome new Officers and Board members - Ann Abraham, Diane Lott, & Nancy Karuhn

2. Member booklet correction sheets

3. Treasurer's Report - all accounts \$23,027.07. Also all cash transactions need a hand written receipt for the records.

4. Project update - March 21st will be the project lead training. This open to everyone who is interested in being a project lead.

5. Extension updates - Tapes are being dubbed over to CD'S. Attending Winter Escapes / Summer Dreams counts as 4 1/2 hours of education.

6. If you became a member before 2008 you will have a background check this year. Then every 4 years after that. UWEX will be sending out a hard copy to let people know when it will be coming. This must be completed immediately.

7. Education updates - WPT garden shows will count towards education hours. Trip to Rockford will be March Thursday 22 & Friday the 23. Limit 49 people. March 4th is the orchid show in Neenah, WI. 8. Master gardener clothing order has been delivered.

9. Tips for filling out hours, Take a look at the sheet, Fill out the grid right away. Ask questions if you don't understand.

10. Motion to adjourn by Julie Miller. Second by Arlene Kosanke.

ANSWER TO WHAT AM I?

BY JANE KUHN

I am Solomon's Seal. Order: Liliales. Family: Liliaceae – lily family. Genus: Polygonatum Mill. – Solomon's seal. Common names: Solomon's Seal, Lady's Seals, Saint Mary's Seal, Sealwort, Angular Solomon's Seal, Dropberry, Sealroot, King Solomon's Seal. Solomon's Seal is named for King Solomon who in Hebrew lore was granted great wisdom that aided him in his magical workings. He placed his seal upon this plant when he recognized its great value. Those with imagination can see the seal on the rootstock in the circular scars left by the stem after it dies back. Solomon's Seal is a medicinal herb that has diverse health restorative properties when used as an herbal tincture, salve, tea or supplement. In 2010, the US Department of Agriculture identified Solomon's Seal as a Culturally Significant plant, noting its medicinal and restorative value among North American Tribal peoples.



References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

MARCH 2017



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Orchid Show
5	6	7 Board Mtg.	8	9	10	11
12 Daylight savings time	13	14 Business Mtg.	15	16	17	18 Fond du Lac MG conference
19	20	21 Project Lead Mtg.	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	